



## Mystery Tokens

### Part 4

By  
Ron Benice



Here is the fourth group of tokens whose historical information has eluded me. Readers of *Alaskan Token Collector* and *Polar Numismatist* are challenged to come up with information about the owners or businesses named on the tokens listed below.

ATC&PN readers continued filling in some of the blanks. Tony Krier of Tony's Recreation in Barrow told us about his establishment in last February's issue. In the same issue Kurtis Hawk provided background on Judy's Place and Working Man's Bar in Fairbanks.

So here are the new challenges:

#### Goodnews

Joseph H. Rutlader, Traders There was a company called "Alaska Traders" that issued tokens in Platinum and subsequently sold out to a Goodnews Bay company. Some long time residents of Goodnews never heard of Rutlader. I've never been able to find any record of Rutlader anywhere in Alaska. But the tokens do say "Alaska" on them.

#### Haines

Berry and Young There was a Henry Berry who sold cigars and a Frank Berry who owned a saloon and C.W. Young who sold hardware, all in Juneau. Presumably they were responsible for the Haines token. But when were they in Haines and what kind of business did they operate?

S. M. Jones An interesting large, atypical old-type token with city and state but no trace of the issuer.

Hotel Northern Bar Surprisingly, I can't find any record of this hotel. Token looks like the 1898-1916 era.

Teddy Bear Coffee Shop These tokens came to light after my book came out and I haven't been able to check all my resources yet. The name doesn't sound like the tokens are from the pioneer era, but are they pre-statehood?

#### Hope

Hope Liquor Co. These were found in Alaska but don't say Alaska on them. Is "Hope" the place name or just "hope" that they are Alaskan?

#### Hyder

The Bungalow We know it was in Hyder. But when? And who owned it?

Northern Pool Hall Again, we know where but not who or when.

(continued on page 56)

# EDITORIAL

Our thanks to Ron Benice for another installment in his **Mystery Tokens** series. With a little luck and persistence, our readers will help provide additional information on these tokens.

As another year draws to a close, it is time to acknowledge those that have contributed information this year. In order of appearance, our thanks go to:

Ron Benice	Ian B. Hart
Joe Usibelli, Jr.	Robert Headland
Tony Krier	Ron Mui
Kurtis Hawk	Wendell Oswalt
Harold Fossum	Jim Robb
Henry Parker	Alan Weinberg
Alvaro Orellana	George C. Rietzel
Kaye Dethridge	Ronald Greene
John Kallman	Dave Gyles
Lee E. Poleske	Brian Denman
J. Douglas Williams	Rex Fisher

If I have overlooked someone, I do apologize.

Also, as the year ends, so do most subscriptions. If your mailing label ends with 02/10 (indicating 2002/issue #10, it is time to renew. Please use the enclosed subscription form to renew your subscription. Other subscribers whose subscription does not expire with this issue will also receive a subscription form, prorated so that your subscription will end with 03/10. You may renew now, or we will send another notice when your subscription is about to expire.

If you choose to not renew your subscription, we would appreciate knowing why. If it is through some deficiency of ours, your comments could assist us in putting out a better product. Our thanks to you for your support in years past. Perhaps we will be able to serve you again in the future.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year.

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 Editor - Dick Hanscom  
 Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth  
 Anchorage Correspondent - vacant  
 Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick  
 Yukon Correspondent - Jim Robb  
 Scandinavian Correspondent - Jorgen Somod

# PRICES REALIZED

From our Nov. 16th auction:

Lot	Bid
256 Chatanika B-1a	35
257 Chatanika B-1b	50
258 Chatanika B-3 a and c	35
259 (Cleary) B-1a and B-6a	30
260 Dyea B-1a	560mb
261 Fairbanks B-19b	26
262 Valdez B-6b	110
263 Wacker B-TaII	90mb*
264 AGM Co. B-C2b	10
265 CRNR B-C5a	30
266 Kennecott Copper B-C7a	28
267 Nome Scrip	400mb*
268 AYPE Encased Cent	50
269 Alaska Encased Cents	40mb*
270 Coal Dollar	40
271 AYPE Medal	15
272 AYPE Medal	20
273 AYPE Medal	10
274 1989 AK silver medal	80
275 Complete 1/2 oz. AK set	160mb*
276 (9) 1/10 oz. gold AK medals	775mb*
277 1997 AK proof silver medal	55
278 Vitus Bering Friendship Dollar	80
279 Alaska Highway Medal	40
280 Odd Fellows Bond, Dawson	30mb*
281 MarkAir Certificates	26
297 Gold Nugget Bracelet	125
298 Gent's Watchband	10
299 1.1 oz. gold nugget	310

mb = sold to mail bidder; \* indicates reduced bid  
 Total saved by mail bidders by bid reductions: \$520.

Mail bidding on the tokens in this auction was exceptionally light. Some good buys were made.

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# Mystery Tokens, cont.

## Juneau

Imperial Cigar Store This appears to be a forerunner of the Imperial Pool Parlor that opened around 1930. When did it open and who owned it?

M. & J. This is a typical brass 6¼¢ token. Can anybody find a business with partners having these initials? I've checked a lot of directories with no luck.

Tony's Place Can we have the same success finding this Tony as we did with the Tony from Barrow?



## Kaltag

Jack Nicoli We know he was there because his name and city are on the token. But what did he sell and when did he sell it?

## Katalla

The Commerce A nice old one with the city name spelled Catella. Probably a saloon around 1905, but no supporting evidence has been found.

Pierce & Adams An unusual shaped token. Almost a rectangle, but the sides are rounded. We know the owners' names but can't place them in a year or business establishment. This is one of the annoying tokens that should be easy to find the history of ... but it has eluded us so far.



## Kenai

Lamplight Bar This one looks suspiciously post statehood. Can anyone in the Anchorage area give a definitive answer?

Moose Horn This one is definitely pre statehood. But that's as far as it goes.



To be continued ...

## ***ALASKA & YUKON STOCKS AND BONDS***

Our book on Alaska stocks and bonds is nearing completion. We hope to send the first draft to the printer the first week of December. With a little luck, we should know enough to offer these for sale in the January newsletter. Needless to say, we are very excited about this, as this is a project started back in 1985.

There are approximately 725 stocks listed from 500+ companies, over 300 pages and over 500 illustrations. Each listing gives, where known, the place of incorporation, color of the front and back, details about the capital stock issued, vignette, size, printer and any other available information.

We have only run into a couple of stocks of token issuers. This may be an article in a future issue.

# ALASKA MINT

I had not been to Anchorage in a number of years. This past September, I made the long drive. I had not seen the Alaska Mint's new facility. To say I was impressed is an understatement. I walked in and talked with Mike Robuck for some time as he gave me the grand tour.

Towards the back of the shop, the visitor can watch medals being struck through the windows on the right. They have two presses, and production varies on each. They can strike 300 to 500 pieces per day on the 200-ton press, and 500 to 1000 medals per day on the 300-ton press. An edge lettering machine stamps the mint name and serial number into the proof medallions.

Behind the window on the left, their artists can be seen producing the dies, from sculpting the original model, to the final transfer to the die.

Obviously, this is a retail establishment, and all of the Alaska Mint's current product are tastefully displayed. We have to tell tourist in the summer, "I am sorry, we don't stock all of their product. They are just making too much." This is really apparent when you take the time to see what is on display.

For those with internet access, go to: [www.alaskamint.com](http://www.alaskamint.com), and the click on "about the mint" and take their tour. Mike the bearded guy hamming it up in most of the photos!

## FOR THE RECORD



**ALASKA DISTRICT:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Presented by the Commander. Bronze, 38.5mm.



**WASILLA:** American Legion, Susitna Valley Post 38, Good for one drink. Brass, 34mm (submitted by Henry Parker).

# 2003 STATE MEDAL



The Alaska Mint has released the 2003 official state medal, featuring a lynx. The silver medals are available from us in the usual sizes at the following prices where known:

1 ounce silver proof - \$30

1 ounce silver matte - \$17

½ ounce silver - \$10

¼ ounce silver - \$8.50

1/10 ounce silver - \$5.00

1/20 ounce silver - \$5.00

Please include \$3 for shipping per order.

The gold medals will be available shortly. Please write or email.



**CANADA, general:** SAAN, Canada's family clothing store, Merchandise redemption value \$1.00. Brass, 28mm. The token to the left is bilingual, the token to the right is English only. SAAN has a store in Whitehorse (submitted by Brian Denman).



# GORDON'S INTEREST BEARING CERTIFICATES



**FAIRBANKS:** Originally shown in the March 1997 issue of ATC&PN. Shown here slightly reduced from its actual size of 185 x 76.

Tanana Tribune of Fairbanks, Feb. 22, 1908, text and ad:

**New Gordon Scrip:** F.S. Gordon has inaugurated one of the most original and effective sales-making schemes ever introduced here. He has issued a limited amount of interest bearing certificates. As they are absolutely secured and yield an income they are better than a clearance house scrip to an investor. Furthermore, when Mr. Gordon's big stock of new goods arrives the certificates will be taken in trade at 10 per cent above par value. The plan is working very successfully. There is a lively call for the certificates. In the use of ready cash to discount heavily on Eastern payments Mr. Gordon reaps the profits he is sharing with his customer here.

(submitted by Rex Fisher)

**R E M E M B E R**

**G. I. B. C.**

**Gordon's Interest Bearing Certificates**

Sold on Monday, February 23rd, can be redeemed in merchandise Monday, March 9th, at TEN PER CENT over their face value

**FOR INSTANCE**

that \$10.00 certificate you purchased will then be worth \$11.00; and that \$50.00 one worth \$55.00.

If you did not buy Monday, February 23rd or since

**THAT'S YOUR FAULT**

and you are the loser to the extent of Ten per cent. However, don't follow up your mistake.

**Become an Investor, You'll Be Sorry If You Don't!**

In a few weeks we will have \$22,000.00 worth of beautiful **NEW SPRING MERCHANDISE** fresh over the ice direct from the best New York manufacturers. You will want something from this shipment. It may be \$10.00 worth or it may be \$100 worth.

**Gordon's Certificates** TWO WEEKS OLD will bring you ten per cent more in merchandise than any other scrip or real money can.

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